

Golf is my hobby and my profession. Many of us became superintendents because we like to play golf and we enjoy interacting with golfers. I think it's beneficial for a superintendent to build his/her golf skills. I think it can make a capable superintendent even better.

All of us make decisions day in and day out to improve golf turf. We work hard to provide the best playing surface that we can for the golfers that play on our courses. We make most of our decisions for agronomic reasons. We know that good turf is part of a good course.

But turf, as vital as it is, is still only part of this great game.

We superintendents need to align ourselves a bit closer to the game itself to become more effective in our profession. We need to look at some of our decisions from a golfer's viewpoint.

Here are some suggestions to improve your golf skills:

- ▶ If you're involved with a local or regional superintendents association, make it a point to play at the chapter meetings

when they have golf outings.

- ▶ Maintain a regular handicap, and try to play in some tournaments. That will give you a better understanding of how bad lies or badly raked bunkers can affect your game.

- ▶ Get involved in local tournaments or high school golf matches as a volunteer or an official.

- ▶ Join your local golf association.

- ▶ Learn the rules of the game (particularly how to mark the course) and keep abreast of any changes.

- ▶ Have a working knowledge about the latest golf equipment. It will help you relate to members.

- ▶ Work with the professional at your club. You might improve relations with the pro, and your swing should get better too.

Better golf skills make better supers?



KEVIN DOWNING
Willoughby GC,
Stuart, Fla.
Guest Columnist

[GOLF]

PAGE 4 G ▶

Summertime is tourney time!

PAGE 10 G ▶

Reduce water, control algae

PAGE 14 G ▶

Overseeding: make or break time

PAGE 21 G ▶

A different kind of overseeding

PAGE 28 G ▶

It ain't about green speed

PAGE 05 G 1 ▶

LM 's Guide to Overseeding

Not everybody is a low handicapper, but if you work on your game you will improve. For some reason, members seem to think that because you can break 80, all of a sudden you know a heck of lot more about golf turf.

But the best reason to play is also the most obvious: It's a game of long-lasting fulfillment. **LM**

[SUPERS ON COURSE]

Supers win at golf show

Howard Pillsbury, superintendent at Northridge Hills, Jacksonville, IL, and **Mike O'Conner**, Raymore, MO, were the lucky recipients of autographed Arnold Palmer Titanium Drivers at the GCSAA Trade Show. **Dr. Richard Hurley**, executive vp of Lofts Seed, drew their names at the Lofts Seed booth.

Upgrade at Great Oaks

John Nowakowski, CGCS, Great Oaks CC, Rochester, MI, has expanded his maintenance department to include wash pads, a recycling center and overall better working conditions. He advises others to plan ahead for such additions.